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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

DATE DIST. 15 September 1948

SUBJECT Airfields near Palanga, Lithuanian SSR, Baltic MD

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. ENCLS. 1
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. An improvised airfield, about 5,000 x 3,300 feet, was located 10,000 feet north of PALANGA (31°04'E/55°55'N), immediately east of the road to LEPAJA (21°02'E/56°32'N), on the southern border of a woods (see attached sketch). The field had no runways, hangars, or buildings, but boundary lights. Fighter trainers and biplanes were parked on the northern field border. The airfield was being reconditioned and leveled and strips, about 82 feet wide, were being excavated in 1948. These works were not yet completed in October 1948.

2. a. A large airfield, about 10,000 x 3,300 feet, was located 2.7 miles north of PALANGA, about 500 feet west and parallel to the road to LEPAJA (see attached sketch). The field had a runway, 250 feet wide. Three large buildings, each about 500 feet long, presumably hangars, were recognized in the wooded strip west of the road.

b. East of the road there were an ammunition dump, three large residential blocks, and cantonment buildings located by the road.

c. The field was occupied by twin-engine aircraft. About 20 very fast and maneuverable aircraft were observed at the airfield in the summer of 1948. These aircraft, the engines of which made a hissing noise, were much faster than the well-known German Messerschmidt fighters and may have been jet-propelled aircraft.

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Comment: According to previous reports, an airfield is located north of PALANGA. The smaller airfield is probably being used as a training field by the units stationed at the nearby large field. The reported occupation of the larger airfield by jet fighters is considered credible since, according to other reports, jet fighters were observed in this area during the same period.

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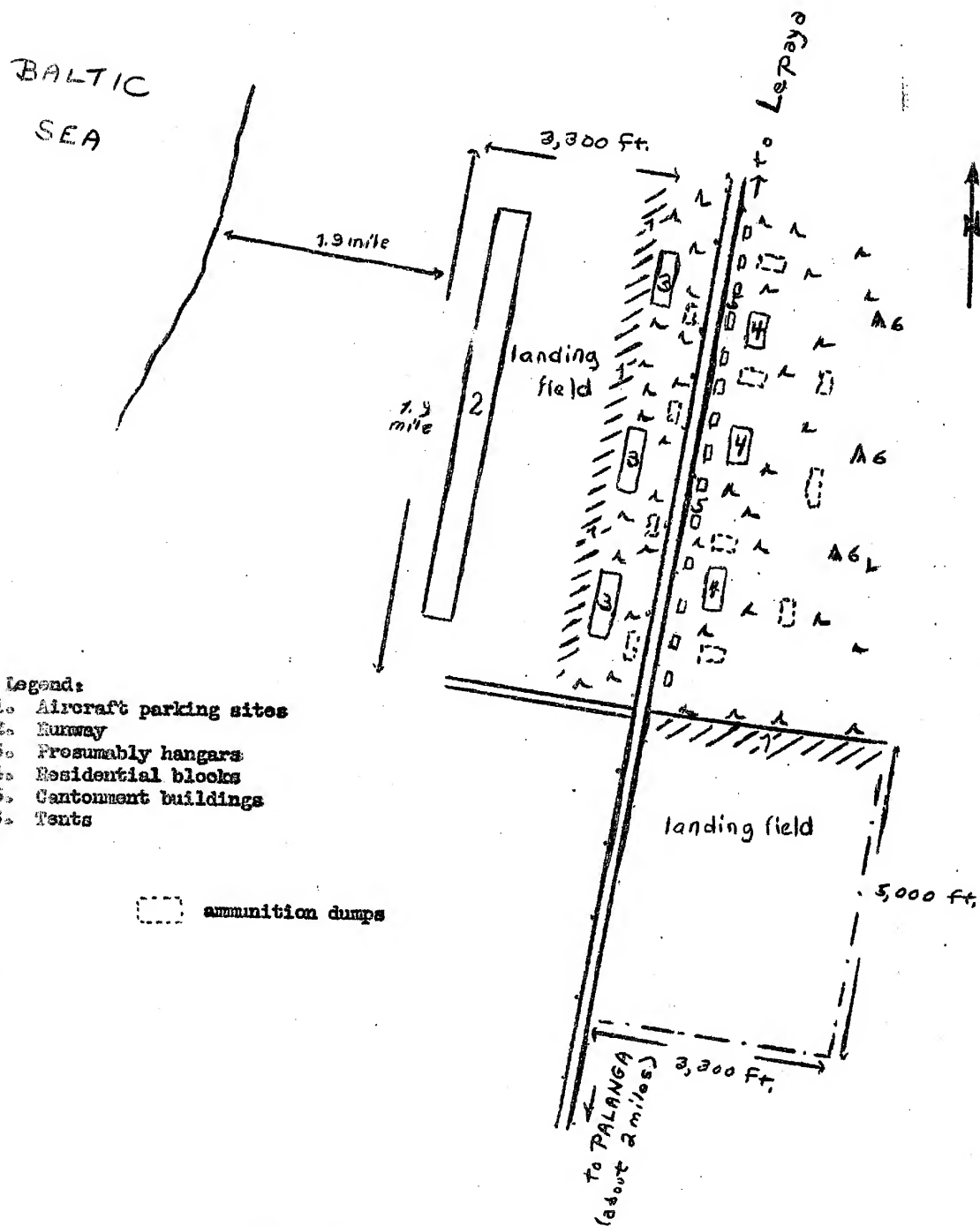
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ATTACHMENT

Sketch of Polanga Airfield



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